

The MONKEYS PAW

by W. W. Jacobs

PREVIEW The story you are about to read is a classic horror story. It may send chills down your spine. It may also make you think about how much control people have over their lives.

As the story begins . . .

- The Whites are spending an evening at home on a rainy night.
- Father and son are playing chess, and Mrs. White is knitting by the fire.

MORE ABOUT . . .

CHESS The object of the game of chess is to trap the opponent's king. When a player says "check," it signals that the opponent's king is in danger of being captured. When the player says "checkmate" or "mate," it signals that the opponent's king is trapped and the game is over.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Bawled means "shouted."



REREAD the boxed text. Underline the words and phrases that help you visualize the Whites' neighborhood.



READING TIP In this story, the author uses many British terms, such as *bog*, meaning "swamp." To figure out the meaning of these words, check the footnotes and look for context clues.

FOCUS

One rainy night, Mr. and Mrs. White and their son are at home, waiting for a visitor. Read to find out about this family.

MARK IT UP As you read, underline details that help you visualize the White family. An example is highlighted.

Without, the night was cold and wet, but in the small parlor of Laburnum Villa the blinds were drawn and the fire burned brightly. Father and son were at chess; the former, who possessed ideas about the game involving radical changes, putting his king into such sharp

and unnecessary perils that it even provoked comment from the white-haired old lady knitting placidly by the fire.

"Hark at the wind," said Mr. White, who, having seen a fatal mistake after it was too late, was amiably desirous¹ of preventing his son from seeing it.

"I'm listening," said the latter, grimly surveying the board as he stretched out his hand. "Check."

"I should hardly think that he'd come tonight," said his father, with his hand poised over the board.

"Mate," replied the son.

"That's the worst of living so far out," bawled Mr. White, with sudden and unlooked-for violence; "of all the beastly, slushy, out-of-the-way places to live in, this is the worst. Pathway's a bog,² and the road's a torrent.³ I don't know what people are thinking about. I suppose because only two houses in the road are let,⁴ they think it doesn't matter."

"Never mind, dear," said his wife soothingly; "perhaps you'll win the next one."

1. amiably desirous: hoping in a pleasant, friendly way.
2. bog: swamp.
3. torrent (tôr'ant): swift-flowing stream.
4. let: rented.

WORDS TO KNOW

peril (pēr'əl) *n.* danger
surveying (sēr-vā'īng) *adj.* looking over carefully; inspecting **survey** *v.*

30 Mr. White looked up sharply, just in time to intercept⁵ a knowing glance between mother and son. The words died away on his lips, and he hid a guilty grin in his thin gray beard.

"There he is," said Herbert White, as the gate banged loudly and heavy footsteps came toward the door.

Pause & Reflect

FOCUS

The visitor arrives. Read to find out about him and the strange object he has with him.

MARK IT UP > As you read, underline details that tell you about this object.

40 The old man rose with hospitable haste, and opening the door, was heard condoling⁶ with the new arrival. The new arrival also condoled with himself, so that Mrs. White said, "Tut, tut!" and coughed gently as her husband entered

the room, followed by a tall, burly man, beady of eye and rubicund of visage.⁷

"Sergeant-Major Morris," he said, introducing him.

50 The sergeant-major shook hands, and taking the proffered seat by the fire, watched contentedly while his host brought out drinks and stood a small copper kettle on the fire.

He began to talk, the little family circle regarding with eager interest this visitor from distant parts, as he squared his broad shoulders in the chair and spoke of wild scenes and doughty⁸ deeds; of wars and plagues and strange peoples.

5. intercept (in' tər-sĕpt'): catch.

6. condoling (kən-dŏ'liŋg): expressing sympathy (in this case, about the visitor's journey through bad weather).

7. rubicund (rŭb'ŭ-kənd) of visage (vĭz'ij): with a red face.

8. doughty (dou'tē): brave.

Pause & Reflect

The White family lives in a neighborhood that is _____. (Check one.) (Clarify)

- lively and busy
- incredibly rich
- isolated and lonely

As the story continues...

- Sergeant-Major Morris arrives.
- He tells the Whites about his travels and explains the magical power of the object he has brought.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Hospitable haste means "in a hurry to welcome someone." Someone who is *burly* is big and strong-looking. *Proffered* means "offered."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? A *slip of a youth* is a small, thin young person.

MORE ABOUT

FAKIRS This term has come to refer to Hindu holy men who have special powers, such as the ability to walk over fire.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? *Off-handedly* means "casually" or "informally."



What does the paw look like?

"Twenty-one years of it," said Mr. White, nodding at his wife and son. "When he went away, he was a slip of a youth in the warehouse. Now look at him."

"He don't look to have taken much harm," said Mrs. White politely.

"I'd like to go to India myself," said the old man, "just to look round a bit, you know."

"Better where you are," said the sergeant-major, shaking his head. He put down the empty glass, and sighing softly, shook it again.

"I should like to see those old temples and **fakirs**⁹ and jugglers," said the old man. "What was that you started telling me the other day about a monkey's paw or something, Morris?"

"Nothing," said the soldier hastily. "Leastways nothing worth hearing."

"Monkey's paw?" said Mrs. White curiously.

"Well, it's just a bit of what you might call magic, perhaps," said the sergeant-major off-handedly.

His three listeners leaned forward eagerly. The visitor absent-mindedly put his empty glass to his lips and then set it down again. His host filled it for him.

"To look at," said the sergeant-major, fumbling in his pocket, "it's just an ordinary little paw, dried to a mummy."

He took something out of his pocket and proffered it. Mrs. White drew back with a **grimace**, but her son, taking it, examined it curiously.

"And what is there special about it?" inquired Mr. White as he took it from his son, and having examined it, placed it upon the table.

9. fakir (fə-kīr'): Hindu holy man.

WORDS TO KNOW

grimace (grīm'īs) *n.* a facial expression of pain or disgust

“It had a spell put on it by an old fakir,” said the sergeant-major, “a very holy man. He wanted to show that fate ruled people’s lives, and that those who
90 interfered with it did so to their sorrow. He put a spell on it so that three separate men could each have three wishes from it.”

His manner was so impressive that his hearers were conscious that their light laughter jarred somewhat.

“Well, why don’t you have three, sir?” said Herbert White cleverly.

The soldier regarded him in the way that middle age is wont to regard presumptuous youth.¹⁰ “I have,” he said quietly, and his blotchy face whitened.

100 “And did you really have the three wishes granted?” asked Mrs. White.

“I did,” said the sergeant-major, and his glass tapped against his strong teeth.

“And has anybody else wished?” persisted the old lady.

“The first man had his three wishes. Yes,” was the reply, “I don’t know what the first two were, but the third was for death. That’s how I got the paw.”

His tones were so grave that a hush fell upon the
110 group.

“If you’ve had your three wishes, it’s no good to you now, then, Morris,” said the old man at last.

“What do you keep it for?”

The soldier shook his head. “Fancy,¹¹ I suppose,” he said slowly. “I did have some idea of selling it, but I don’t think I will. It has caused enough mischief already. Besides, people won’t buy. They think it’s a fairy tale, some of them; and those who do think

10. middle age is wont to regard presumptuous youth: how middle-aged people usually look at young people who show no respect.

11. fancy (fān’ sē): whim, humor.

WORDS TO KNOW

fate (fāi) n. power that is supposed to determine the course of events

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The words in blue mean that their reaction of laughing didn’t fit the mood.



the boxed text. How did the sergeant-major get the paw? (infer)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? Grave means “very serious.”



Why does Morris still have the paw?

Pause & Reflect

Check three phrases below that apply to the monkey's paw. (Clarify)

- has a spell on it
- brings only happiness to its owner
- looks ordinary
- grants three wishes

As the story continues ...

- The Whites keep the paw even though the sergeant-major advises against it.
- They imagine how the paw will change their lives.



Why does the sergeant-major tell Mr. White to throw the paw back on the fire?

MORE ABOUT

TALISMAN A talisman can be something from nature or man-made. It is supposed to protect or bring good luck to the person who carries it. A popular good-luck talisman is the rabbit's foot.

The InterActive Reader PLUS
255 With Additional Support

anything of it want to try it first and pay me
120 afterward."

"If you could have another three wishes," said the old man, eyeing him keenly, "would you have them?"
"I don't know," said the other. "I don't know."

Pause & Reflect

FOCUS

Read to find out about Morris's attitude toward the monkey's paw.

He took the paw, and dangling it between his forefinger and thumb, suddenly threw it upon the

fire. White, with a slight cry, stooped down and snatched it off.

130 "Better let it burn," said the soldier solemnly.

"If you don't want it, Morris," said the other, "give it to me."

"I won't," said his friend doggedly. "I threw it on the fire. If you keep it, don't blame me for what happens. Pitch it on the fire again like a sensible man."

The other shook his head and examined his new possession closely. "How do you do it?" he inquired.

140 "Hold it up in your right hand and wish aloud," said the sergeant-major, "but I warn you of the consequences."

"Sounds like the *Arabian Nights*,"¹² said Mrs. White, as she rose and began to set the supper. "Don't you think you might wish for four pairs of hands for me?"

Her husband drew the **talisman**¹³ from his pocket, and then all three burst into laughter as the sergeant-

12. *Arabian Nights*: a famous collection of stories that feature magical events.

13. talisman (tāl'is-mān): an object thought to have magical powers.

major, with a look of alarm on his face, caught him by the arm.

150 "If you must wish," he said gruffly, "wish for something sensible."

Mr. White dropped it back in his pocket, and placing chairs, motioned his friend to the table. In the business of supper the talisman was partly forgotten, and afterward the three sat listening in an enthralled¹⁴ fashion to a second installment of the soldier's adventures in India.

"If the tale about the monkey's paw is not more truthful than those he has been telling us," said
160 Herbert, as the door closed behind their guest, just in time for him to catch the last train, "we shan't make much out of it."

"Did you give him anything for it, Father?" inquired Mrs. White, regarding her husband closely.

"A trifle,"¹⁵ said he, coloring slightly. "He didn't want it, but I made him take it. And he pressed me again to throw it away."

"Likely," said Herbert, with pretended horror.
"Why, we're going to be rich, and famous, and happy."
170 Wish to be an emperor, Father, to begin with; then you can't be henpecked."

He darted round the table, pursued by the maligned¹⁶ Mrs. White armed with an antimacassar.¹⁷

Pause & Reflect

14. enthralled (en-thrôld'): fascinated.

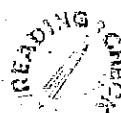
15. A trifle (tri' fəl): a small amount.

16. maligned (mə-lind'): insulted.

17. antimacassar (än'tē-mă-kās'ər): a cloth placed over a chair to keep it clean.

READER'S SUCCESS

STRATEGY On the left half of a piece of paper folded lengthwise, list words and phrases to describe the Whites, their actions, and your feelings about events in the story so far.



What is Herbert's opinion about the sergeant-major's stories?

Pause & Reflect

1. How does the sergeant-major's attitude toward the paw differ from the Whites' attitude? (Compare and Contrast)
2. Do you think that the monkey's paw will bring Mr. White happiness? (Predict)
YES / NO, because



As the story continues ...

- Mr. White makes his first wish on the paw.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Shamefacedly means "with embarrassment." *Marred* means "ruined" or "spoiled."

REREAD



the boxed text. What is the family's feeling about the paw's power? (Infer)

READING CHECK

What does Mr. White wish for? Why?

FOCUS

Read to find out what Mr. White does with the monkey's paw.

Mr. White took the paw from his pocket and eyed it dubiously.¹⁸ "I don't know what to wish for, and that's a

fact," he said slowly. "It seems to me I've got all I want."

180 "If you only cleared the house,¹⁹ you'd be quite happy, wouldn't you?" said Herbert, with his hand on his shoulder. "Well, wish for two hundred pounds,²⁰ then; that'll just do it."

His father, smiling shamefacedly at his own credulity, held up the talisman, as his son, with a solemn face, somewhat marred by a wink at his mother, sat down at the piano and struck a few impressive chords.

190 "I wish for two hundred pounds," said the old man distinctly.

A fine crash from the piano greeted the words, interrupted by a shuddering cry from the old man. His wife and son ran toward him.

"It moved," he cried, with a glance of disgust at the object as it lay on the floor. "As I wished, it twisted my hand like a snake."

"Well, I don't see the money," said his son, as he picked it up and placed it on the table, "and I bet I never shall."

200 "It must have been your fancy, Father," said his wife, regarding him anxiously.

He shook his head. "Never mind, though; there's harm done, but it gave me a shock all the same."

18. dubiously (doo' bee-əs le): with doubt.

19. cleared the house: paid off the debt on the house.

20. two hundred pounds: sum of British money worth about 1,000 U.S. dollars the time this story was written.

WORDS TO KNOW

credulity (kri-doo'lee-tē) *n.* tendency to believe too easily; gullibility

They sat down by the fire again. Outside, the wind was higher than ever, and the old man started nervously at the sound of a door banging upstairs. A silence unusual and depressing settled upon all three, which lasted until the old couple rose to retire for the night.

210 "I expect you'll find the cash tied up in a big bag in the middle of your bed," said Herbert, as he bade them good-night, "and something horrible squatting up on top of the wardrobe²¹ watching you as you pocket your ill-gotten gains."

He sat alone in the darkness, gazing at the dying fire, and seeing faces in it. The last face was so horrible and so simian²² that he gazed at it in amazement. It got so vivid that, with a little uneasy laugh, he felt on the table for a glass containing a little
220 water to throw over it. His hand grasped the monkey's paw, and with a little shiver he wiped his hand on his coat and went up to bed.

Pause & Reflect

FOCUS


Mr. and Mrs. White react differently to the monkey's paw. Read to find out about their reactions.

230 In the brightness of the wintry sun next morning as it streamed over the breakfast table he laughed at his fears. There was an air of prosaic²³ wholesomeness about the room which it had lacked on the previous night, and the dirty, shriveled little paw was pitched on the

21. wardrobe: a tall piece of furniture that serves as a closet.
22. simian (sīm'ē-ən): monkey-like.
23. prosaic (prō-zā'ik): ordinary; commonplace.

Pause & Reflect

1. How does the family's mood change after Mr. White makes a wish? (Compare and Contrast)

2.  REREAD the boxed text. How would you feel if you were Herbert? (Connect)

As the story continues ...

- Mrs. White and Herbert joke about their wish of the night before.
- Herbert leaves for work.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Wholesomeness is another word for innocence or purity.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Attribute it to coincidence means "think it happened by chance."

Pause & Reflect

1. How does Mr. White's reaction to the monkey's paw differ from his wife's? (Compare and Contrast)

2. Mr. White is afraid of the paw because it _____ (Check one.) (Clarify)

- frightened Morris
- comes from far away
- scratched him
- moved in his hand

sideboard²⁴ with a carelessness which betokened no great belief in its virtues.²⁵

"I suppose all old soldiers are the same," said Mrs. White. "The idea of our listening to such nonsense! How could wishes be granted in these days? And if they could, how could two hundred pounds hurt you, Father?"

"Might drop on his head from the sky," said the frivolous²⁶ Herbert.

"Morris said the things happened so naturally," said his father, "that you might if you so wished attribute it to coincidence."²⁴⁰

"Well, don't break into the money before I come back," said Herbert as he rose from the table. "I'm afraid it'll turn you into a mean, avaricious²⁷ man, and we shall have to disown²⁸ you."

His mother laughed, and following him to the door, watched him down the road; and returning to the breakfast table, was very happy at the expense of her husband's credulity. All of which did not prevent her²⁵⁰ from scurrying to the door at the postman's knock, when she found that the post brought a tailor's bill.

"Herbert will have some more of his funny remarks, I expect, when he comes home," she said, as they sat at dinner.

"I dare say," said Mr. White, "but for all that, the thing moved in my hand; that I'll swear to."

"You thought it did," said the old lady soothingly.

"I say it did," replied the other. "There was no thought about it; I had just—What's the matter?"

Pause & Reflect

24. sideboard: a piece of furniture used to store tablecloths and dishes.

25. virtues: powers.

26. frivolous (frīv' ə-ləs): silly.

27. avaricious (əv' ə-rīsh' əs): greedy.

28. disown (dī's-ŏn'): to refuse to accept as one's own; to reject.

FOCUS

A strange man arrives at the house. Read to find out about him and his message.

MARK IT UP As you read, underline the words that help you understand the man's message.

260 His wife made no reply. She was watching the mysterious movements of a man outside, who, peering in an undecided fashion at the house, appeared to be trying to make up his mind to enter. In mental connection with the two hundred pounds, she noticed that the stranger was well dressed and wore a silk hat of glossy newness. Three
270 times he paused at the gate, and then walked on again. The fourth time he stood with his hand upon it, and then with sudden resolution flung it open and walked up the path. Mrs. White at the same moment placed her hands behind her, and hurriedly unfastening the strings of her apron, put that useful article of apparel beneath the cushion of her chair.

She brought the stranger, who seemed ill at ease, into the room. He gazed at her furtively,²⁹ and listened in a preoccupied fashion as the old lady apologized for
280 the appearance of the room, and her husband's coat, a garment which he usually reserved for the garden. She waited patiently for him to broach his business, but he was at first strangely silent.

"I—was asked to call," he said at last, and stooped and picked a piece of cotton from his trousers. "I come from Maw and Meggins."

The old lady started. "Is anything the matter?" she asked breathlessly. "Has anything happened to Herbert? What is it? What is it?"

290 Her husband interposed.³⁰ "There, there, Mother," he said hastily. "Sit down, and don't jump to conclusions. You've not brought bad news, I'm sure, sir;" and he eyed the other wistfully.³¹

29. *furtively* (fŭr' tĭv-lē): in a sly way.

30. *interposed* (ĭn' tər-pōzd'): interrupted.

31. *wistfully* (wĭst' fə-lē): full of wishful yearning.

As the story continues...

- A well-dressed man from Herbert's workplace visits the Whites.
- He brings a horrifying message.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Resolution means "determination."

MARK IT UP Reread the boxed passage. Underline the words and phrases that describe the messenger's behavior. (Visualize)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Preoccupied means "distracted" or "absorbed in other thoughts." *Broach his business* means "explain the reason that he is there."



How did Herbert die?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Inaudible means "very quiet" or "unable to be heard." *They admit no liability at all* means that Herbert's employers take no responsibility for causing the accident.

"I'm sorry—" began the visitor.

"Is he hurt?" demanded the mother wildly.

The visitor bowed in assent.³² "Badly hurt," he said quietly, "but he is not in any pain."

"Oh!" said the old woman, clasping her hands.

"Thank goodness for that! Thank—"

300 She broke off suddenly as the sinister meaning of the assurance dawned upon her and she saw the awful confirmation of her fears in the other's averted³³ face. She caught her breath, and turning to her slower-witted husband, laid her trembling old hand upon his. There was a long silence.

"He was caught in the machinery," said the visitor at length in a low voice.

"Caught in the machinery," repeated Mr. White, in a dazed fashion, "yes."

310 He sat staring blankly out at the window, and taking his wife's hand between his own, pressed it as he had been wont to do in their old courting days nearly forty years before.

"He was the only one left to us," he said, turning gently to the visitor. "It is hard."

The other coughed, and rising, walked slowly to the window. "The firm wished me to convey their sincere sympathy with you in your great loss," he said, without looking round. "I beg that you will understand

320 I am only their servant and merely obeying orders."

There was no reply; the old woman's face was white, her eyes staring, and her breath inaudible; on the husband's face was a look such as his friend the sergeant might have carried into his first action.

"I was to say that Maw and Meggins disclaim all responsibility," continued the other. "They admit no liability at all, but in consideration of your son's

32. assent (ə-sent'): agreement.

33. averted (ə-vûr' tid): turned away.

services, they wish to present you with a certain sum as compensation.”³⁴

330 Mr. White dropped his wife’s hand, and rising to his feet, gazed with a look of horror at his visitor. His dry lips shaped the words, “How much?”

“Two hundred pounds,” was the answer.

Unconscious of his wife’s shriek, the old man smiled faintly, put out his hands like a sightless man, and dropped, a senseless heap, to the floor.

Pause & Reflect

FOCUS

Mr. and Mrs. White mourn their dead son. Suddenly, Mrs. White has an idea. What do you think she tells her husband to do?

MARK IT UP As you read, underline her command to her husband.

In the huge new cemetery, some two miles distant, the old people buried their dead, and came back to a house steeped in shadow and silence. It was all over so quickly that at first they could hardly realize it, and remained in a state of

expectation as though of something else to happen—something else which was to lighten this load, too heavy for old hearts to bear. But the days passed, and expectation gave place to resignation³⁵—the hopeless resignation of the old, sometimes miscalled apathy.³⁶ Sometimes they hardly exchanged a word, for now they had nothing to talk about, and their days were long to weariness.

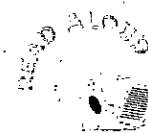
34. compensation (kŏm’ pən-sā’ shən): payment for a loss.

35. resignation (rĕz’ ĭg-nā’ shən): acceptance of a difficult situation.

36. apathy (ăp’ ə thĕ): a lack of feeling or interest.



Pause & Reflect



the boxed passage. Why do Mr. and Mrs.

White react so strongly to the news that they will receive two hundred pounds? (Draw Conclusions)

As the story continues...

- Without Herbert, the Whites’ days are dreary and long.
- Mrs. White remembers that they have two wishes left.
- Mr. White makes another wish.

READER’S SUCCESS STRATEGY The Whites’ first wish did not turn out the way they expected. Use a chart like the one below to compare and contrast their expectations with the actual results.

Expectations	Results

**READER'S
SUCCESS
STRATEGY**

On the right side of your folded paper, list words and phrases that describe the Whites, their actions, and your feelings about this part of the story. Unfold your paper and compare your two lists. Briefly summarize the changes in characters and mood.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The words in blue mean that he slept only for short periods, waking up often.

READ ALOUD

the boxed conversation. Use your voice to emphasize the strong emotions of the speakers.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Triumphantly means "joyfully." *Quaking* means "trembling." *Aghast* means "shocked and horrified."

It was about a week after that the old man, waking suddenly in the night, stretched out his hand and found himself alone. The room was in darkness, and the sound of subdued weeping came from the window. He raised himself in bed and listened.

"Come back," he said tenderly. "You will be cold."
360 "It is colder for my son," said the old woman, and wept afresh.

The sound of her sobs died away on his ears. The bed was warm, and his eyes heavy with sleep. He dozed fitfully, and then slept until a sudden wild cry from his wife awoke him with a start.

"*The paw!*" she cried wildly. "The monkey's paw!"
He started up in alarm. "Where? Where is it? What's the matter?"

370 She came stumbling across the room toward him. "I want it," she said quietly. "You've not destroyed it?"

"It's in the parlor, on the bracket," he replied, marveling. "Why?"

She cried and laughed together, and bending over, kissed his cheek.

"I only just thought of it," she said hysterically. "Why didn't I think of it before? Why didn't you think of it?"

"Think of what?" he questioned.

380 "The other two wishes," she replied rapidly. "We've only had one."

"Was not that enough?" he demanded fiercely.

"No," she cried triumphantly; "we'll have one more. Go down and get it quickly, and wish our boy alive."

The man sat up in bed and flung the bedclothes from his quaking limbs. "You are mad!" he cried, aghast.

"Get it," she panted; "get it quickly, and wish—Oh, my boy, my boy!"

390 Her husband struck a match and lit the candle. "Get back to bed," he said unsteadily. "You don't know what you are saying."

"We had the first wish granted," said the old woman feverishly; "why not the second?"

"A coincidence," stammered the old man.

"Go and get it and wish," cried his wife, quivering with excitement.

400 He went down in the darkness, and felt his way to the parlor, and then to the mantelpiece. The talisman was in its place, and a horrible fear that the unspoken wish might bring his mutilated³⁷ son before him ere he could escape from the room seized upon him, and he caught his breath as he found that he had lost the direction of the door. His brow cold with sweat, he felt his way round the table, and groped along the wall until he found himself in the small passage with the unwholesome thing in his hand.

Even his wife's face seemed changed as he entered the room. It was white and expectant, and to his fears 410 seemed to have an unnatural look upon it. He was afraid of her.

"Wish!" she cried, in a strong voice.

"It is foolish and wicked," he faltered.

"Wish!" repeated his wife.

He raised his hand. "I wish my son alive again."

Pause & Reflect




READER'S SUCCESS

STRATEGY Review what has happened in the story so far. Predict what will happen after Mr. White makes the second wish.

Pause & Reflect

1. Mrs. White tells her husband to _____. (Check one.) (Clarify)
 - destroy the paw
 - return to the cemetery
 - sell the paw
 - wish for Herbert to be alive again

2.  the boxed text on this page. What is Mr. White afraid of? (Summarize)

37. mutilated (myōōt' lā'tīd): badly injured; disfigured.

As the story ends . . .

- Mr. and Mrs. White wait for their second wish to be granted.
- After several hours there is a knock on the door.



How does Mr. White feel when it appears the wish won't come true?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Oppressive means "heavy."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Suspended means "stopped."

FOCUS

Read to find out what happens after Mr. White makes his wish.

The talisman fell to the floor, and he regarded it fearfully. Then he sank trembling into a chair as the

420 old woman, with burning eyes, walked to the window and raised the blind:

He sat until he was chilled with the cold, glancing occasionally at the figure of the old woman peering through the window. The candle-end, which had burned below the rim of the china candlestick, was throwing pulsating shadows on the ceiling and walls, until, with a flicker larger than the rest, it expired. The old man, with an unspeakable sense of relief at the failure of the talisman, crept back to his bed, and a minute or two afterward the old woman came silently and apathetically beside him.

430 Neither spoke, but lay silently listening to the ticking of the clock. A stair creaked, and a squeaky mouse scurried noisily through the wall. The darkness was oppressive, and after lying for some time gathering up his courage, he took the box of matches, and striking one, went downstairs for a candle.

At the foot of the stairs the match went out, and he paused to strike another; and at the same moment a knock, so quiet and stealthy as to be scarcely audible, sounded on the front door.

440 The matches fell from his hand. He stood motionless, his breath suspended until the knock was repeated. Then he turned and fled swiftly back to his room, and closed the door behind him. A third knock sounded through the house.

"What's that?" cried the old woman, starting up.

"A rat," said the old man in shaking tones—"a rat. It passed me on the stairs."

450 His wife sat up in bed listening. A loud knock resounded through the house.

"It's Herbert!" she screamed. "It's Herbert!"

She ran to the door, but her husband was before her, and catching her by the arm, held her tightly.

"What are you going to do?" he whispered hoarsely.

"It's my boy; it's Herbert!" she cried, struggling mechanically. "I forgot it was two miles away. What are you holding me for? Let go. I must open the door."

460 "Don't let it in," cried the old man, trembling.

"You're afraid of your own son," she cried, struggling. "Let me go. I'm coming, Herbert; I'm coming."

There was another knock, and another. The old woman with a sudden wrench³⁸ broke free and ran from the room. Her husband followed to the landing, and called after her appealingly as she hurried downstairs. He heard the chain rattle back and the bottom bolt drawn slowly and stiffly from the socket.

470 Then the old woman's voice, strained and panting.

"The bolt," she cried loudly. "Come down. I can't reach it."

But her husband was on his hands and knees groping wildly on the floor in search of the paw. If he could only find it before the thing outside got in. A perfect fusillade³⁹ of knocks reverberated through the house, and he heard the scraping of a chair as his wife put it down in the passage against the door. He heard the creaking of the bolt as it came slowly back, and at

480 the same moment, he found the monkey's paw and frantically breathed his third and last wish.

38. wrench (rəntʃ): a sharp, forcible twist or turn.

39. fusillade (fyoo'sə-lād'): a rapid series of loud noises.



the boxed text.

What does Mrs.

White mean by "I


forgot it was two miles
away"? (infer)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Reverberated means
"echoed."



What does Mr.
White do before
his wife can open the door?



Pause & Reflect

1. Did you want Mrs. White to open the door? Explain your answer. (Connect)

2. What is Mr. White's final wish? (Infer)



The Indian fakir put a spell on the paw "to show that fate ruled people's lives, and that those who interfered with it did so to their sorrow." How does this message apply to the White family? (Analyze)

The knocking ceased suddenly, although the echoes of it were still in the house. He heard the chair drawn back, and the door opened.

A cold wind rushed up the staircase, and a long loud wail of disappointment and misery from his wife gave him courage to run down to her side, and then to the gate beyond. The streetlamp flickering opposite shone on a quiet and deserted road. ❖

Pause & Reflect

Name _____

Periods _____

Own one word

WHAT IT IS!

Write your word

Identify part of speech

Synonym

Synonym

Times / situations to use it

WHAT IT IS NOT!

Write the word

Times/situations it is inappropriate

A part of speech it will NOT be

Antonym

Antonym

SELECTION TEST**The Monkey's Paw**

W. W. Jacobs

Pupil's Edition page 184

Checking Vocabulary (20 points)

Match each word in the left-hand column with its meaning in the right-hand column. Place the letter of the correct meaning in the space provided. You may use a meaning more than once. (2 points each)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. resounded | a. echoed |
| ___ 2. presumptuous | b. ordinary |
| ___ 3. credulity | c. calmly |
| ___ 4. prosaic | d. turned away |
| ___ 5. avaricious | e. incapable of being heard |
| ___ 6. averted | f. overly bold |
| ___ 7. inaudible | g. lack of emotion |
| ___ 8. apathy | h. tendency to believe too readily |
| ___ 9. placidly | i. greedy for money |
| ___ 10. reverberated | |

Thoughtful Reading (25 points)

On the line provided, write the letter of the *best* answer to each of the following items. (5 points each)

- ___ 11. At the beginning of "The Monkey's Paw," the Whites
- are clearly an unhappy family with many problems
 - are hoping that Sergeant Major Morris won't pay them a visit
 - seem to be fairly content with their lives
 - are arguing about Mr. White's cheating at chess
- ___ 12. Which statement best sums up why the fakir put a spell on the monkey's paw?
- Greedy people get what they deserve.
 - Our lives are the result of chance rather than fate.
 - Magic is a powerful force and must not be taken lightly.
 - People should not try to alter the course of fate.
- ___ 13. Which statement best describes the sergeant major's attitude toward the monkey's paw?
- He does not believe that the monkey's paw can grant wishes.
 - He plans to sell it for a great deal of money.
 - He believes the monkey's paw can cause harm to those who use it.
 - He believes it is a worthless object that should be thrown in the trash.